Progress, Negro 1863-1913.

We began this article, not to discuss the Exposition, but to contrast the condition of the race at the Emancipation and at the present. Lest, however, we seem to be too long, we merely give a summary, showing what the people have done in the past fifty years, and where they were fifty years ago.

CONDITION OF THE NEGRO RACE, 1863.

Total population census of 1863, 4,441,730; slaves, 3,953,760; free, 487,970.

Illiteracy, 90 per cent.

Value of property estimated at	$12,000,000
Number colleges and universities owned	1
Number of college graduates estimated at	30
Number practicing physicians and pharmacists	0
Number lawyers	0
Number banks operated by Negroes	0
Number Negro towns governed	0
Number Federal Office holders	0
Number newspapers	1
Number Negroes ten years of age, able to read and write	200,000
Percentage of Negroes ten years of age who could read and write, 6 per cent.	
Number churches owned, estimated at	400
Value of Church property	$500,000
Number church members in Negro churches estimated at	40,000
Number children in schools, estimated at	25,000
Number Negroes working for wages	150,000
Number skilled mechanics	10,000
Number Negro business men and women	6,000
Number Negro inventors	0

CONDITION OF THE NEGRO RACE, 1913.

Population, census 1910	9,828,294
Illiteracy, census 1910, 30.5 per cent	
Value of church property estimated at	$1,000,000,000
Number homes owned	500,000
Number churches owned	28,000
Number farms owned	250,000
Value church property	65,000,000
Number college and university graduates	8,000
Number men and women in professions	75,000
Number ten years of age who can read and write	5,000,000
Percentage ten years of age who can read and write	69.5 per cent.
Number practicing physicians, estimated at	3,500
Number practicing lawyers	1,500
Number Negro banks	35
Number business men, estimated at	50,000
Church membership	3,700,000
Number children in school	2,000,000
Number Negro towns	50
Number Negro school teachers	30,000
Number Negro newspapers	250
Number Negroes working for wages	4,000,000
Number skilled mechanics	1,900,000
Number Negro inventors	1,500
Negro authors	5,000

REFUSE TO INSURE NEGRO PROPERTY

The Philadelphia Enterprise 8-2-13

Quite an excitement prevailed among some of the residents of Nashville during the past two or three weeks because of an announcement by an insurance agency firm of this city that they had received instructions not to renew any insurance on Negro property and to cancel that insurance which they already had on property belonging to Negroes. This announcement caused much uneasiness on the part of some of the large property owners of Nashville, who were carrying insurance and who would naturally be effected by such action. As soon as the rumor gained circulation a quiet investigation was made and it was found that a certain fire insurance firm of this city that has been in business for a number of years had received instructions from their home office to cancel policies of Negro property and not to reinsure any more.

No cause was given for the action except an off-handed statement that they did not care for the business, and this statement was made with another statement that no other companies represented in Nashville would insure.

It was the later statement that caused the small pandemonium that reigned for a while. But further investigation discloses that fact that the last assertion was not true, that there is one of the best and largest insurance firms in Nashville inviting the patronage of Negroes and guarantees that they will put their policies in as reliable and as safe companies as can be found represented in Nashville for the risk involved.

The first person consulted as soon as the announcement was made was Mr. Robert H. Fite, a member of the firm of Dudley-Fite & Company, who stated: "Yes, we have heard that certain companies or concerns in this city were not insuring Negro property, and that they had received such instructions from their home office. Only this week we have insured quite a deal of property for people whose policies had been cancelled as a result of this action on the part of some of the agents. But we have never found an occasion in all of our years of business to rue the day we have taken Negro risks, as we have found them very satisfactory.

"I do not care to use the names of the parties whose firms refuse to take Negro insurance," continued Mr. Fite, "as I do not know the motive assigned."

There are Negro concerns in this city that carry unusually large policies, and there are over forty-five thousand members of the race within the incorporate limits of the city. Palatial and splendid homes whose prices run up into the thousands belong to these people, who will, no doubt, appreciate this announcement and will be glad to learn that while one or two companies may have issued such an order, it is possible for them to obtain safe risks on their homes and valuables.

At first it was thought that the rumor was groundless, but the continued investigation proved that it was really true, but it was stated among the business men that it would not effect the interests of Nashville to any great extent.—Nashville Globe.

WHITE MEN COMMEND PROGRESS OF NEGRO

Montgomery Adv 7-30-13

Semi-Centennial of Emancipation Noted at Faunsdale Sunday School Convention

Special to The Advertiser.

FAUNSDALE, ALA., July 29.—Taking advantage of the meeting of the Uniontown District Sunday School Convention, colored, composed of Sunday School workers of Selma, Uniontown, Allenville, Faunsdale and Sunday Schools of Dallas, Perry, Marengo and Hale counties, just closed here, services were held appropriate to the celebration of the semi-centennial of the freedom of the American negro. Prof. R. B. Hudson, of Selma, Secretary of the National Negro Baptist Convention, presided during the three days meeting.

Among the white people who delivered inspiring addresses to the negroes were Mr. J. C. Brown and Banker Melton of Faunsdale; Colonel R. R. Poole of Uniontown, and Prof. W. B. Paterson of Montgomery, principal State Normal School for negroes.

Mr. Melton spoke of the progress of Sunday School work and declared statistics show that 98 per cent of the prisoners of the State had never attended Sunday Schools. Mr. Brown stated that he had been connected with the Sunday School as pupil and afterwards teacher from the age of six years. He congratulated the negroes upon the progress they have made along educational, moral, religious and economic lines and stated that it is the most remarkable in the history of races.

Colonel Poole stated, among other things, that the white people of the South note with pleasure the progress of the negro since emancipation, and declared that the best friends of the negro are among the white Southern people.

Professor Paterson spoke of the duty of the white people to give the negro educational advantages and declared that the best evidence of the friendly feeling of Southern white people for the freed man is seen in the great yearly expenditures by Southern States on negro schools. His own life and labors for forty years is a concrete example for he has been supported, he said, all these years as a teacher of negro schools in Alabama.

Grateful acknowledgment of the growth of friendly relations between the races as shown by the addresses of representative white citizens were evidenced in a flood of negro oratory by such prominent negro delegates as Prof. Hudson of Selma, Dr. Charles L. Fisher of Mobile, Dr. J. H. Eason of Birmingham, president Alabama Negro Baptist State Convention; Dr. W. S. Ellington of Nashville, Tennessee, editor of the Negro Baptist Sunday School Literature; Rev. M. W. Gilbert, D.D., president Selma University, Selma; Prof. John T. Arter, principal of the Presbyterian School for Negroes, Anne Manie, Alabama; Rev. William Hicks, pastor, Uniontown; Thomas M. Campbell, Tuskegee Institute, District Agent United States local farm demonstration agents; Dr. Jemison and Professor Dinkins of Selma, Professor Martin o. Faunsdale, and others.

Campbell spoke of the progress of the negro farmers in using improved methods of tilling the soil, and rapped severely the lazy negro.

The meeting was considered one of the best of the kind ever held in the black belt.

The address of John T. Arter was remarkable for eloquence and common sense and elicited prolonged applause by the white visitors.